

4VAC15-260-85 (NEW). Game: Waterfowl and Waterfowl Blinds. Non-riparian blinds adjacent to department-managed properties

Summary:

The proposal is to prohibit non-riparian stationary blinds adjacent to any State Wildlife Management Areas or department-managed properties.

Proposed language of amendment:

1 4VAC15-260-85 (NEW). Non-riparian blinds adjacent to department-managed properties.
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3 Non-riparian stationary waterfowl blinds shall not be licensed or erected on the public waters
4 adjacent to any State Wildlife Management Areas or department-managed properties, unless
5 otherwise specified in code or regulation, and waterfowl hunting within these areas will be
6 permitted only at locations and during times designated by the department. However, non-
7 riparian blinds that were properly licensed and erected adjacent to properties the department
8 owned or managed on June 30, 2019, are exempt from this regulation, until such time that those
9 licenses expire. This section shall not abridge the privileges prescribed for landowners and their
10 lessees and permittees in §§ 29.1-344 and 29.1-347 of the Code of Virginia.

Rationale:

This proposal would establish a standard stationary blind regulation for any new department-owned and managed properties. Existing regulations for several WMAs that are consistent with this proposal (Chickahominy, Game Farm Marsh, Ragged Island), could be repealed. In addition, other department-managed properties that are not included in any existing regulations (Mattaponi, Goose Pond, Sutton Tract, etc.) would be covered under this proposal. It would insure that public-hunting opportunities are available adjacent to department-managed properties, and would improve the department's ability to manage hunter access on department properties. Although there is only one currently licensed non-riparian blind that would be in conflict with this proposal, an exemption has been included for non-riparian stationary blinds that are currently licensed within the riparian zones of existing department-managed properties.